

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CPR-01 OPR-02 A-01 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3968

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 3419

FOR OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT, CAPT. HOWE AND EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY TOAST AT FRANKFURT ABEND

1. AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THERE ARE TO BE NO TOASTS OR SPEECHES AT THE MAY 14 FRANKFURTER ABEND. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT OUR PREDICTION SHOULD BE WRONG A DRAFT RESPONSE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT IS IN PARA TWO BELOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT MR. MAYOR, MRS. ARNDT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR VERY KIND WORDS DIRECTED TO US AND TO MY COUNTRY.

I AM TOLD THAT AMONG THE SUPERLATIVES THAT FRANKFURT CAN BOAST ARE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS OF ANY CITY IN GERMANY, THE SECOND LARGEST PASSENGER VOLUME OF ANY AIRPORT IN EUROPE-- AND THE BIGGEST HOLES BEING DUG INTO THE GROUND IN ANY CITY IN EUROPE. (NOTE: LAST IS ALLUSION TO HEAVY SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION IN FRANKFURT) COMING FROM WASHINGTON, A CITY WHERE WE ALSO DIG LARGE HOLES IN THE GROUND, I ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE THE LAST CHARACTERISTIC.

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MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE TIES BETWEEN

OUR TWO COUNTRIES GO FAR BACK INTO THE HISTORY OF MY COUNTRY. AMONG THE MANY MILLION AMERICANS OF GERMAN ORIGIN--INCLUDING THE ROCKEFELLERS--A GREAT NUMBER COME FROM THIS CENTRAL REGION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC--FROM HESSE AND FROM THE RHEINLAND PALATINATE. OVER THE YEARS NOT ONLY OUR HUMAN BUT ALSO CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL TIES HAVE GROWN IMMENSELY. IN THE 1860'S I UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF TRADE BETWEEN THIS REGION OF GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES WERE HARE'S FUR, APPLE WINE AND BEER EXPORTED TO AMERICA FOR VIRGINIA TOBACCO SENT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO GERMANY. IN THE TREMENDOUS EXPANSION OF ALL THESE TIES SINCE THEN THE CENTRAL REGIONAL AROUND FRANKFURT HAS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE--AND THE APPLE WINE, I HEAR, IS STILL FAMOUS.

MOSTLY, MR. MAYOR AND MRS. ARNDT, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE SUPERB AND WARM HOSPITALITY YOU AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS HAVE SHOWN US SINCE THE MOMENT THAT WE TOUCHED DOWN AT FRANKFURT AIRPORT. IT IS A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND A GREAT TESTIMONY TO THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN GERMAN, AND AMERICANS. I ASK YOU NOW TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES. END TEXT. LEHMANN

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